



THE NATURE OF VOLUNTEERING

Vol 1. No. 31

EXPLORE THE WONDERS OF NATURE - VOLUNTEER

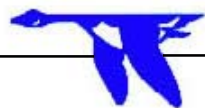
Summer 2007



DID YOU KNOW ...

On March 14, the National Wildlife Refuge System celebrated its 104th year as one of America's greatest conservation success stories!

"Wild creatures, like men, must have a place to live. As civilization creates cities, builds highways, and drains marshes, it takes away, little by little, the land that is suitable for wildlife. And as their space for living dwindles, the wildlife populations themselves decline. Refuges resist this trend by saving some areas from encroachment, and by preserving in them, or restoring where necessary, the conditions that wild things need in order to live." - Rachel Carson



Wild Things

**AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGES ...** *where wildlife
comes naturally!*



ED JONES NAMED VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Ed Jones, a life-long resident of Egg Harbor Township and retired EHT police officer, was honored at Forsythe Refuge's annual Volunteer Appreciation and Award Luncheon last month.

Since signing up as a volunteer in 2000, Ed has contributed over 5500 hours to the refuge, and brought in countless partners for events such as Make a Difference Day, Earth Day, and National Wildlife Refuge Day. He was instrumental in forming the refuge's Stay Focused Photo Club in 2001. After learning about a national program called Hooked On Fishing - Not On Drugs (HOF-NOD), Ed became a certified instructor and brought this national program to the refuge. Today, this is one of the most successful events the refuge holds.

Ed is presently the President of Friends of Forsythe, a non-profit group established in 1998 to provide support and services to the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in Oceanville, New Jersey.

Ed has made volunteering at Forsythe a family affair. His brothers are involved in the HOF-NOD derby; his sons improved the electrical service in the volunteer house, installed carpet in both the volunteer house and headquarters, and one even donned a T.R. Bear costume to take part in the Miss America Parade and a Chamber of Commerce event. In-laws are no exception, helping him with computer work. Ed even introduced his grandchildren to the importance of volunteering.

His wife, Carol, has volunteered for numerous activities as well.

Those of you who know Ed will agree that he's definitely deserving of this award.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE ...

Did you Know	1
Congratulations Volunteer of the Year, Ed Jones	1
National News: Chief's Corner	2
Buy a Duck Stamp, Save Land!	2
View From the Tower - Searching for the Silver Lining	3
Peregrine Falcon Breeding	4
LE Corner, Refuges - Not Just for Wildlife	5
A Word from Our Friends	6
CONTEST - Looking for a New Logo	6
What's Happening on Your Refuge	7
Forsythe Explorer - Your Guide to Fun & Adventure	8
Here's the Scope On	9
Who's on Staff	10

CHIEF'S C O R N E R



Geoffrey L. Haskett
National Wildlife Refuge
System Chief

The House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee has unanimously passed a "marked up" House Appropriations Bill to provide \$451 million for the Refuge System, \$56 million more than was proposed for fiscal year 2008. I wanted to share with you this very first action on the fiscal 2008 budget proposal.

The National Wildlife Refuge System was to receive \$395 million for operations and maintenance under the proposed budget, the same level of funding we are operating with in the current fiscal year. In marking up the budget bill for the Refuge System, the subcommittee specifically noted that, "this will restore staffing reductions and begin to rebuild the management capacity in the Refuge System."

The Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement - CARE - has been calling for a \$451 million funding level for the Refuge System. That is also the amount advocated in a "Dear Colleague" letter signed by more than 80 members of the House of Representatives, including the four chairs and co-chairs and many other members of the Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus.

The Department of the Interior was proposed to receive 25.7 billion for the various agencies and programs in FY 2008. The subcommittee provided \$27.6 billion.

So, what's next? Now, the bill goes to the full House Appropriations Committee for discussion, debate and passage. That won't happen until after the Memorial Day recess. If it passes, the bill will be referred to the Senate. The Senate is also preparing to introduce and mark-up its own Interior Appropriations legislation, and that bill may have different funding numbers. So you can see that, although the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee's increase is substantial for refuges, the bill has a long way to go before being signed into law.

But for now, we have a lot of people to thank, starting with our Friends organizations. Friends from Alaska, Florida, New Jersey and Virginia traveled from their homes to appear in April at Public Witness Day to personally urge the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee to increase support for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Hundreds of other Friends wrote their Congressional representatives. Please thank your Refuge Friends.



**BUY A DUCK STAMP,
SAVE LAND!**

This year the Northeast Region has much to cheer about when it comes to the Duck Stamp. The 2007 Federal Duck Stamp design contest winner is from the state of Delaware. Richard Clifton resides near Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge and is an active volunteer and member of the refuge's friends group. The Duck Stamp art design contest is highly coveted and a great honor for the individual chosen as the winner each year.

Originally created in 1934 as a federal license required for hunting migratory waterfowl, the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, or Duck Stamp, now has a much larger purpose as a vital tool for wetland and wildlife conservation. Besides serving as a hunting license and a conservation tool, a current year's Federal Duck Stamp also serves as an entrance pass for National Wildlife Refuges where admission is normally charged. Duck Stamps and the products that bear duck stamp images are also popular collector items. In 1989 the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program was introduced as one method of introducing school age children to vital wetlands and conservation related curriculum. The program incorporates scientific and wildlife management principles into a visual arts curriculum. The winning Junior Duck Stamp design is also printed as a stamp and is sold for \$5.

Adding to the reasons why every concerned citizen should buy a Duck Stamp and Junior Duck Stamp, below are some important facts that you may not know about the Duck Stamp.

- Ninety-Eight percent of funds generated by Duck Stamp sales goes directly to purchase or lease wetland habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- Since 1934 more than \$670 million dollars of Duck Stamp sales have helped protect over 5.2 million acres of habitat in the U.S.
- Numerous bird, mammal, fish, reptile and amphibian species have benefited and rely on these wetlands for continued survival.
- Land purchased with Duck Stamp funds contributes to much of the region's popular outdoor recreation spots, including top birding and hiking locations.

Continued on page 8, **Duck Stamps**

For more national news go to <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/refugeUpdate/index.html>

SEARCHING FOR THE SILVER LINING ...OF BLACK DUCK WINGS

By Dane Cramer, University of Delaware, Paul Castelli, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, and Christopher Williams, University of Delaware.

The American black duck remains a spectacular sight of the salt marshes along the Atlantic coast. Any winter salt marsh scene is illustrated with a show of black ducks floating effortlessly on silvery white wings against an icy backdrop and landing with a genial splash.

New Jersey is a pivotal area for black ducks. Along the Atlantic flyway, New Jersey approximates the center of their wintering range. Despite the historical declines in numbers, the population has managed to stabilize to the north, even in the face of greater habitat loss and development. To the south on the other hand, populations continue to decline. According to the Mid-winter inventory, orchestrated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, New Jersey winters nearly half of the flyway's population.

The majority of these ducks occur on the coastal salt marshes of numerous state owned wildlife management areas and two federal refuges: the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and the Cape May NWR. Collectively the two refuges currently protect over 57,000 acres of habitat in southern New Jersey. The habitat is vital to the success of black ducks but also provides essential wintering habitat and crucial stops along migration routes for hundred of thousands of birds that rely heavily on the rich coastal habitat.

Researchers from The University of Delaware in partnership with Ducks Unlimited, New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife, Edwin B. Forsythe and Cape May NWRs, and Black Duck Joint Venture are conducting a study aimed at understanding the habitat and food requirements of wintering black ducks. The study in New Jersey will compliment a similar study recently completed on Long Island, NY and one underway in Virginia. Finding answers to these questions on a flyway scale will enable managers to more effectively anticipate waterfowl habitat needs and determine priority areas for restoration and protection.

Gathering the information necessary to build a bio-energetic model involves collecting multiple pieces of information. To determine habitat availability and usage, available wetland habitat across southern New Jersey is summarized according to the existing National Wetlands Inventory data. Radio transmitters are then attached to female black ducks and their movements monitored around the clock from winter through late spring to identify areas that are most important to them. Second involves assembling time-energy budgets by determining the percentage of birds in a flock that are engaged in predefined activities. Last, biologists are estimating availability and utilization of foods such as snails, clams, and seeds. This effort, across the landscape, provides an estimate of food energy available as well as any associated depletion rate. Crop



surveys from harvested black ducks then verify food usage, food preference, and the possibility of any shift in food source as resources may be depleted. The final result will be an estimate of the amount and type(s) of habitat required to support and maintain projected population goals.

"We are very supportive of this cooperative research investigation. It will further our understanding of natural resources and strengthen refuge management decisions," says Kevin Holcomb, refuge biologist at Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. "The refuge issues several special use permits annually, to conduct scientific research on the 46,000 acre refuge," Holcomb said.

At the end of two years of research, this study should better develop our understanding of the habitat quality and food availability required for black ducks to survive the winter. Increasing the quality of habitat in New Jersey may have direct impacts on the health of hens returning to breeding grounds and could result in increased production, potentially curbing the current downward trends. Managers hope to combine data from all three studies to insure that population goals set for black ducks are realistic. Data will also be used to support wetland protection policy changes aimed at protecting black duck habitats.

We thank the following organizations, who provided funds to support this research; The Black Duck Joint Venture, The Atlantic Coast Joint Venture, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, the New Jersey Waterfowlers Association, the Edwin B. Forsythe and Cape May NWRs, the New Jersey Duck Stamp Committee, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., and The University of Delaware College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Research Partnership.

The decline of the peregrine falcon in the eastern U.S. has been linked to persistent organochlorine pesticide contamination. The eastern population plunged from an estimated 350 active sites in the 1930's and 1940's to no active breeding birds in 1964 or 1975. Recovery efforts began in 1975 after DDT was banned in the U.S. The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Peregrine Fund first hacked falcons in 1975 at Sedge Islands Wildlife Management Area in Barnegat Bay. Hacking continued at several sites until pairs established territories. Wild nesting began at Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in 1980, and expanded slowly until 1993, when the population reached its present level. In New Jersey, the recovery goal is consistent, successful nesting by eight to ten pairs. While there have been 8-10 pairs successful since 1999 (disregarding the variable bridges), we seek longer-term success and expansion into historic and well-protected nest sites to achieve full recovery. Further, we are still concerned about the effects of persistent organochlorine contaminants on the population. We took part in a recent study of contaminants in eggs of mid-Atlantic peregrines, and found that New Jersey coastal peregrines had some of the heaviest loads of DDE and mercury. Population management focuses on monitoring nests, banding young, and improving conditions at nest sites in order to enhance productivity.

In 2006 the New Jersey peregrine falcon population declined slightly to 18 pairs. Amazingly, the natural cliff population grew to four pairs, as they are quickly filling their old niche in the natural world. Three of the four pairs successfully raised young. In the rest of the state, 11 pairs nested on towers and buildings and three on bridges. Of 11 pairs on towers and buildings, all nested successfully, producing 27 young for a rate of 2.45 young per active nest. This is above the average of 1.70 recorded since 1986 (when the population stabilized). New Jersey monitored three pairs on bridges spanning the NJ-PA border. Other bridges entirely in New Jersey were not monitored to the extent that we could report results. Two bridge sites are consistent while the rest fluctuate annually in occupancy and success; all are fairly difficult to track. Even so, five young fledged from two of three known-outcome nests, with the help of diligent bridge managers. Two pairs discovered last year were not known to nest (one pair was territorial in Elizabeth while the other may have nested undetected in Newark). We banded 32 young at 12 nests, applying both the federal band and a bicolor band with an alpha-numeric code. One nestling died at Jersey City of unknown causes. A fledgling off the Walt Whitman Bridge was recovered on the ground, and it was transferred to West Virginia where it was hacked

into the wild. We collected two addled eggs from two sites, and a full clutch of three eggs from the Whitman Bridge to avoid construction disturbance to the nest.

Forsythe NWR has two nesting towers. One is located on the East/West Pool crossdike at the Brigantine Division and the other one is located on the AT&T property at the Barnegat Division. Breeding success of tower-nesting peregrine falcons at both divisions are monitored by refuge volunteers to determine the efficacy of nesting towers and to monitor the status of this sensitive species. Consistent monitoring by refuge volunteers identify nesting chronology which is needed to estimate the incubation period, hatching and fledging events.

Early in June, Kathy Clark, along with refuge biologist Kevin Holcomb and our interns, banded four nestlings - two males and two females approximately 3 1/2 weeks old - from the peregrine tower on the crossdike.



LE CORNER



Refuges - Not Just for Wildlife. A common question I am routinely asked is, "Why do you carry a gun?" The first thing that I usually come to is: I deal with hunters, during the season, who are armed with weapons whether bow, muzzle loader or shotgun and on top of that nine times out of ten have a large hunting knife in their possession. This response seems to give people the answer they needed and they are satisfied. Unfortunately, this is not where the story ends- today refuges, parks and open spaces have increasingly become places where people conduct illegal activities. Examples of this are:

In August 2003, a park ranger, 28-year-old Kris Eggle, was killed while helping Border Patrol agents catch two men suspected by Mexican officials in a drug-related quadruple murder. The men had driven a stolen SUV through one of many holes in the fence that separates the park from the Mexican state of Sonora.

Rangers at Crater Lake National Park attempted to calm a man at the Mazama campground who had been involved in a domestic disturbance, loudly threatening people, disrupting an evening program, and leaving campers cowering in their tents. Undeterred by pepper spray, he came at the rangers with a club. They finally fatally shot the man.

* "National Park Service officers are 12 times more likely to be killed or injured as a result of an assault than FBI agents, - a rate triple that of the next worst federal agency," the group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility reported.

OK, so these incidences are out West and deal with the National Park Service. So, how does this relate to a wildlife refuge in southern New Jersey? Remember, both the Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are under the Department of the Interior, manage similar areas, and deal with all the same problems.

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) says the rise of crime in national forests is reflected in the increase in threats and violence toward employees of the Forest Service, National Parks Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management. According to PEER,

attacks against employees of those agencies have increased from 88 reported in 2004 to 477 in 2005.

In a 2004 a New Jersey statewide report on illegal street gang activity that places the number of street gang members operating in New Jersey at nearly 17,000, and the number of gangs at nearly 700.

- Approximately 17 percent of all reported homicides in New Jersey involve gang members.
- There are more than an estimated 2,300 gang members in New Jersey under age 15. Statewide, 18-to-24-year-olds form the largest single sub-group of gang members, followed by 15-to-17-year-olds, and then those older than 24.
- Within the estimated statewide membership of 16,700 gang members, the ratio of male gang members to female gang members is about 9-to-1. However, 22 street gangs were reported to have a female membership of 25 percent or more.
- The majority of identified street gangs - about 76 percent - are made up of members from the same racial and ethnic backgrounds. (30 percent black, 29 percent Hispanic, 15 percent white, less than 1 percent Asian). Multi-racial or multi-ethnic gangs made up about 14 percent of all gangs reported in the 2004 survey. For the remainder of street gangs identified by police, no information was provided on racial/ethnic composition.

Also, within this report parks/playgrounds account for 15% of the locations where gang activities happen.

As a final word, to this overload of startling information about our national treasures, whether park or refuge, today more than ever they deserve our protection and proper funding in order to provide the adequate amount resources and personnel to keep them alive and well.

Stay Safe, Refuge Officer Chris Pancila



RANGER DANGER: A ranger in Sequoia National Park in California hunts for signs of marijuana gardens, which are often protected by illegal armed guards.

A WORD FROM OUR FRIENDS

The Friends of Forsythe NWR is a non-profit group established in 1998 to provide support and services to the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in Oceanville, New Jersey. Our goals are:

- Promoting a better understanding of the natural history and environment of Southern New Jersey, the Edwin B. Forsythe NWR and the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- Helping to preserve and enhance the wildlife habitat at this refuge, and to assist the refuge, the Refuge System and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a variety of educational and supportive efforts.

Please consider joining the Friends of Forsythe and help us accomplish these goals. Call 609-748-1535 or visit www.friendsofforsythe.org

Contest: "Looking for a New Logo"

Friends of Forsythe announce a competition open to all its members and refuge volunteers. We are hoping to come up with a new logo for our organization. Our logo is used on all Friends stationery, signs, embroidered patches, banners, and exhibit presentation boards and flyers. The logo's art and text should clearly express, in a simple, eye-catching manner, our mission of support for the refuge and its wildlife.

This contest will be open to any Friends members who:

- have artistic talent of any kind;
- think they have artistic talent of any kind;
- have been told by others that they have artistic talent, even though they themselves aren't sure if they do;
- have no artistic talent, but can describe in words a concept for a logo which others with artistic talent might be able to create.

So, give it a try. What have you got to lose? Entries should be drawn to a size of about 8 x10.

Mail or bring your entry to:
Ed Jones, President
Friends of Forsythe
P.O. Box 355
800 Great Creek Road
Oceanville, NJ 08231

All entries must be received by Friday, August 10th.

Award: The prize for the contest winner will itself be a surprise. Your executive committee is currently in the "brainstorming" stage of decision-making on this difficult issue. (We can't offer tickets to see the Eagles in Philadelphia, but maybe free passes to see the Egrets at Forsythe would be possible.) However, regardless of what we eventually come up with, we all know that the greatest prize will be the satisfaction of designing and creating, or even just conceptualizing, a symbol for a worthy and caring organization whose members proudly and humbly refer to it simply as "The Friends."



Members of Friends of Forsythe were among the 70+ people attending the 2007 North-east Region Friends Workshop this past April. The workshop was held at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in Philadelphia and was hosted by the Friends of Heinz Wildlife Refuge. In spite of a nor'easter bearing down on the area, over 20 Friends groups and 20 national wildlife refuges were represented at the 3 day workshop. The meetings provided an opportunity for Friends members to meet and exchange ideas on Friends group projects, successes, membership activities, and to strategize with regional and refuge staff and other Friends groups on how to meet refuge and Service goals in a downsizing environment.



pictured l to r: Ed Bristow, JoAnn McEnerney, Tom Graf, Tom Tuohy, Julie Baker, Brian Braudis, Sandy Perchetti, and Kathleen Vandermark.

Evening at Forsythe series (open to the public) continues the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm. in the refuge auditorium. (July's series will be on the 11th).



Over 60 volunteers from the refuge and its Friends Group, several local Boy and Girl Scout Troops, Absegami High School's Interact Club, Stockton College and NJ Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs planted 800 trees as part of a project which started on Make a Difference Day last October, with the support of Pictorial Offset of Carlstadt, NJ and The Conservation Fund. The tree planting was part of a national initiative celebrating both Earth Day and National Global and Youth Service Day. A corporation that had been looking for a partner for Earth Day, saw Forsythe's listing on the Earth Day Network website and contacted the refuge. As a result, MXenergy of Stamford, CT, donated supplies for the event, including tree shelters to protect the newly planted seedlings from deer, supporting stakes and Terra-Sorb, which prevents water loss in newly planted trees. MXenergy also provided bottled water and lunch for all event participants. The NJ State Forest Nursery

donated the trees. Since this was also National Environmental Education Week, after the planting volunteers joined in Environmental Education activities to show the importance of trees and received a seedling to plant in their own yards.

In recognition of **National Volunteer Week**, volunteers from area businesses and organizations participated in community service projects across Atlantic County (NJ) as part of United Way's 4th Annual Day of Caring on April 19. United Way's Volunteer Center of Atlantic County organized this year's Day of Caring, which was sponsored by Kramer Beverage of Hammonton, NJ. The sponsor, itself, chose Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge as the place its employees wanted to volunteer. Eight volunteers from the company cleaned up a section of the refuge and filled 30 bags with trash. "Volunteers are a critical resource for our community," said John Emge, Executive Director of United Way of Atlantic County. "United Way is a volunteer-driven organization, but it is events like Day of Caring that truly engage the community to learn more about how United Way contribution dollars are used."



Approximately twenty seniors from Camden High School's Prophecy Club chose Edwin B. Forsythe NWR for a service project last April. This college transition program requires each student to donate 20 hours of volunteer service before they can graduate. Several of these students have been accepted to a four-year college. The students, led by Crystal Henry and Charles Simpson, worked in our native plant garden and weeding and watering the newly planted seedlings from Earth Day.

One of the Refuge activities on **Migratory Bird Day** May 12th was the annual Refuge Series of Birding Contest. The objective of the contest is to introduce new and casual birders to the competitive sport of birding. Unlike other 24 hour-long birding series of expert birders, the Forsythe Refuge SOB is a short fun trip with teams of friends or family making a circuit around one of the established refuge trails or auto tour in search of migratory birds arriving in our area. SOB participation packets are provided to prospective teams on their arrival at the beginning of the refuge auto tour. Each contains entry form, rules of the game, and a refuge bird list upon which to record their findings. Birding teams of two to four members are formed by the contestants themselves. Contesting teams compete to see which can find and identify the greatest number of different kinds or species of birds. Seventy-five participation packets were handed out by SOB Contest umpires John Williamson and Roz Herlands. It was a great time for backyard or casual birders to expand their horizons. After later scoring of the team entries, fun prizes provided by the Refuge Store were awarded to the First, Second, and Third place winning teams along with congratulatory letters sent them. First prize this year went to Dean and Susan Greenberg of Hartland, VT. Second prize winners were Matt and Teresa Shupbach of Mays Landing. Third prize went to Tom and Lola Wood of Gibbsboro, NJ. The Refuge SOB Contest is provided by the Refuge Staff, volunteer Friends of the Refuge, and the Atlantic Audubon Society. article by J. Williamson

FORSYTHE EXPLORER - Your Guide to Fun and Adventure on the Refuge

Art Webster

Okay, you have been around the Wildlife Drive a thousand times. Have you ever wondered what is going on in the other 90% of the refuge? Our seasonal park rangers can help you find out. When we lost Cindy's position, we lost our lead interpreter. To help make up for this loss we have used funds from our fee collection account to hire seasonal park rangers. Lawson Reif worked from October to January. He was on leave without pay when he accepted a permanent job with the Bureau of Land Management in Oregon. Joe Nelson started in April and will work to early July. Our seasonals bring a lot of enthusiasm to the work place. Plus, they are used to doing research to prepare for programs. It is like cramming for finals.

Our seasonal are encouraged to develop and lead activities on a variety of subjects, in a variety of locations. The popular, *Forsythe NWR, A Back Stage Pass* gave visitors an opportunity to hike on the impoundment dikes that are normally closed to the public. A program on the *Battle of Chestnut Neck* brought local historians out of the woodwork to stand on the site of an old fort on the refuge and view the areas of the Mullica River and surrounding salt marsh where the action occurred back in 1778.

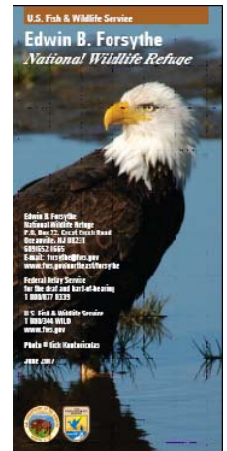
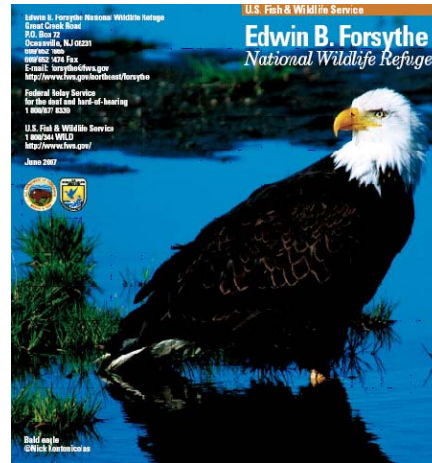
Our programs have been a cure for whatever ails you. The description of Our *Winter Ecology* hike claimed to "Help fight Seasonal Affectiveness Disorder on a stroll of the 5-mile Songbird Trail." Have you ever heard of *Oxycoccus*? Look for opportunities to join a ranger on the *Bogs and Pines Hike* to experience the wonders of the pines and the beauty of the bogs. You will have to wait until next fall to go on the *Maritime Forest Walk* at the end of Collinstown Road in Barnegat. You will pass by a beautiful creek, through a dense maritime forest, to a spectacular view of fingers of forest reaching out into the salt marsh, far from any development, in the heart of the refuge.

The spring season is almost over so one of our summer interns Julie Baker has starting leading some of the activities such as *Barrier Island Ecology* and the *Holgate Wildlife Walk*. To keep track of the programs we are offering, look under Current Events on our website or stop by the headquarters building or information booth to pick up a copy of our activities flier, the *Forsythe Explorer*. We would like to increase the participation on our programs. If you are interested in helping to publicize our activities please contact Sandy or Art.



NEW!

Be on the lookout for two new brochures, our updated general brochure with new maps and photos and a rack card.



Duck Stamps, continued from page 2

- Revenue generated by sales of the Junior Duck Stamp funds environmental education programs in all 50 states.

Over the last 30 years, Duck Stamp sales have steadily declined in much of the northeast. Perhaps this trend can be correlated to the decline of waterfowl hunting, or even the increase of development, especially along coastal areas. What ever the reasons for the decline in sales, the fact is, the Duck Stamp benefits a much larger population, of both wildlife and people.

The Northeast Region is embarking on a Duck Stamp Initiative to increase awareness and the sale of Duck Stamps in the region by at least 5 percent. The challenge runs from July 2007 to July 2008. We are currently gearing up to go "full force" with spreading the Duck Stamp word throughout the Region. Friends groups will play a vital role in helping us achieve this goal and hopefully instilling a long lasting tradition in every person we reach. So stay tuned to learn more about how you and all friends can help with this vital component to increasing the Service's capabilities of saving more land for the benefit of fish, wildlife, plants, and the American people.

For more information on the Federal Duck Stamp and Junior Duck Stamp Program please visit <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/>. For more information about the Northeast Region Duck Stamp Initiative please contact Jennifer Lapis at Jennifer_Lapis@fws.gov.



This Summer's Interns

The staff has once again been given the opportunity to work with some excellent young people who are starting on their careers in environmental conservation. With budget cuts a reality, our interns play an indispensable role in helping Forsythe Refuge meet critical conservation objectives by providing essential services that we do not have the resources or staff to provide.

Julie Baker is from Montgomery Township, NJ and a Senior at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey majoring in Marine Science: Marine Biology track. Julie's love for this



refuge led her to apply for a summer internship here. "I'm really looking forward to learning more about what the refuge has to offer through the knowledge of the staff and our experienced volunteers. This experience is really going to help me further my education and help me decide on the right career path for me." Julie is currently Secretary of the Friends of Forsythe.

Nicole Pope from Toms River will be graduating in 2008 with a degree in General Integrative Biology from Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. Nicole's found her internship "very educational" as far as her future is concerned.

James Brady is from Manalapan, NJ and a recent graduate from the University of Vermont, Rubenstein School of Environmental and Natural Resources, with a degree in Natural Resources: Resource Ecology. James is really excited to finally get to use in the field what he has learned in the classroom. "Working with such a sincere and passionate group of people at the Refuge will surely be the perfect transition into a career in the natural resources."

Emily Blackman, from Princeton, NJ, graduated this year from Bucknell University with a degree in Animal Behavior. She is



very excited to have "the opportunity to work in such a beautiful place with such great people."

Amanda Conover - is a recent graduate from Penn State University with a degree in Environmental Resource Management. She's very "excited to work with all the interns, volunteers and employees," and is "looking forward to exploring this unique ecosystem and gaining experience in an environment different from my previous work in Pennsylvania." Amanda hails from Reading, PA.



Our interns will have well-rounded experiences this summer. While each have their own specific duties, they will have the opportunity to be involved in all aspects of refuge management. Julie and Nicole will focusing on "visitor services" and environmental education; our biological interns, James and Emily, will be monitoring the Piping plovers and other endangered and threatened nesting birds on Holgate and Little Beach, and Amanda will be spending the majority of her time here doing biological and vegetative surveys and water management.

Patti Rendo, from Glen Gardner, NJ. After 14 years as a computer programmer and project manager for a software consulting firm, she decided that life is too short to spend indoors, behind a computer. She began pursuing a Biological degree part-time while still working, and graduated from Rutgers University in 2006 with a degree in Biological Sciences. This is her second summer monitoring the breeding success of American Oystercatchers on New Jersey's beaches and saltmarshes. (Photo not available)

Born and raised in Cape May, NJ, **Joe Nelson** is the son of a waterman who shared his love and respect of the environment with his children, making Joe a perfect fit at Forsythe Refuge. He is a graduate of Unity College (Maine) with a degree in Environmental Science (emphasis in Park Management). While at Forsythe, Joe has been helping with wildlife management and doing environmental education programs on and off the refuge. Joe is presently looking for a full time, permanent position with the Department of Interior.



Top 15 Indicators you are a Refuge Volunteer from South Jersey

1. You say "wad err" instead of water.
2. You know that ACME is a real store and not just a place where Wile E. Coyote shops.
3. There is a fruit and vegetable stand down the road.
4. You always say "Yo".
5. You've had arguments over cheesesteak quality.
6. Your neighbor lost his retirement money at an Atlantic City casino.
7. You know someone in the Mafia.
8. You have Lyme Disease.
9. You know what became of the 13th Leeds child, and claim to have seen the Jersey Devil at least on one occasion.
10. You know what a "shoeebie" is and can pick one out at the beach.
11. You've been stuck in the sand while driving in the woods with a date.
12. To you, "gravel" means orange dirt.
13. You know how to pronounce Buena, Malaga and Atsion.
14. You can buy fresh seafood just about anywhere.
15. You never miss a Memorial Day parade and stand up as the flag passes.

WHO'S ON STAFF?

Project Leader
STEVE ATZERT

Deputy Project Leader
BRIAN BRAUDIS

Chief of Visitor Services
ART WEBSTER

Wildife Biologists
VINNY TURNER - KEVIN HOLCOMB

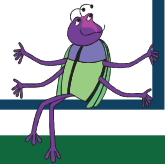
Refuge Law Enforcement Officer
CHRIS PANCILA

Administrative Officer
MARTHA HAND

Volunteer Coordinator
SANDY PERCHETTI

Maintenance Professional
TOM HOLDSWORTH

Seasonal Park Ranger
JOE NELSON



Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 72, Great Creek Road
Oceanville, NJ 08231
609-652-1665
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/forsythe>